

Minutes Human Relations Commission February 14, 2006

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on TUESDAY, February 14, 2006 8:00 A.M., at the Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Zach Berning
Colleen Byron
Arlene Chin
Michele Duval
Joel Navarro
Gail Paredes-Ewen
Safali Patel-Evans
Linda Ritland
Janis Webb

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Hassan Elsaad
Edwin Gonzalez-Santin
Joseph Mann
Muhammed Zubair

City Staff Present:

Rosa Inchausti
Andrea Groves

Guests Present:

Deedra Abboud, Exe. Dir. of MAS Freedom Foundation
Hafza Turk, Community Member

Meeting convened at 8:15 A.M.

Chair Joel Navarro called the meeting to order and invited members of the public to address the Commission.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2- Consideration of Minutes

January 10, 2006

MOTION: Commissioner Arlene Chin made a motion to accept minutes.

SECOND: Commissioner Zach Berning.

DECISION: Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3 – Dr. Nadim Hassan Discrimination Case

Chair Joel Navarro invited Hafza Turk and Deedra Abboud to address the commission on the Dr. Nadim Hassan case:

- 1) Dr. Nadim Hassan has been legally in the United States for 20 years. He is a licensed medical doctor for Maricopa County Hospital working under a work visa.

- 2) Dr. Hassan applied for change of status in 2000. During the application process, an investigation was completed on Dr. Hassan. Dr. Hassan leads an organization that outreaches to other Muslims in the community. The Department of Immigration believed this to be a terrorist organization and deported Dr. Hassan and his wife to Pakistan.
- 3) The Department of Immigration has not given Dr. Hassan an opportunity to defend his case. Mr. Turk and Ms. Abboud feel that the United States Immigration Office is a power base with no oversight or accountability.
- 4) Mr. Turk and Ms. Abboud also feel that getting the word out to community members to contact Congress will help get Dr. Hassan back to the United States.

General Discussion of Dr. Nadim Hassan included:

- The HRC encouraged Ms. Abboud and Mr. Turk to continue their outreach efforts. The Commission will also place the item on the agenda for their Regional Human Relations Commission Exchange on February 28, 2006.
- The Commission overall agreed that it is too early to take any specific action on this agenda item, as they are still gathering information.

Agenda Item 4 – City Election: Voter Registration Identification at Polls

Chair Joel Navarro and staff Rosa Inchausti led a discussion on Voter Registration Identification at Polls:

- 1) The Diversity Office has teamed with the City Clerk's Office in educating the public on new voting requirements due to Proposition 200. All voters will need to show proper identification at the polls before receiving a ballot at the polling place.
- 2) Information flyers, in both Spanish and English, have been distributed at all polling locations in Tempe.
- 3) Provisional ballots are provided to voters without identification at the polling place. They must present acceptable identification at Tempe's City Clerk's Office no later than the Friday after the election in order to have their provisional ballot counted.

General Discussion of Voter Registration included:

- One commissioner stated that Proposition 200 does not address the issue with elderly Native Americans. They often do not have tribal identification.

Agenda Item 5 – Regional HRC Conversational Exchange

Chair Joel Navarro led a discussion on the Regional HRC Conversational Exchange:

- 1) The next Regional HRC Conversational Exchange will be hosted by the city of Tempe and held February 28, 2006 at the Tempe Library Program Room.
- 2) The Mayor of Tempe, Hugh Hallman, will give the welcome.
- 3) The Commission will review highlights of the HRC and the Diversity Office and hear updates from the other cities. They will also revisit the Regional Strategic Plan established in April of 2002.
- 4) Commissioner Arlene Chin agreed to facilitate the meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – HRC Strategic Plan Update

Chair Joel Navarro asked for an update on the following subcommittees:

A. Subcommittee for Development of Emerging Issues Report:

Chair Joel Navarro provided an update:

1. Public Forum Discussion on Day Labor Issue

- 1) The Regional HRC Subcommittee on Day Labor would like to host another public forum on day labor in Tempe on May 10, 2006. This forum will focus on the proposed legislation from Senator John McCain, Senator Jon Kyl, and Congressman JD Hayworth regarding work visas and its impact on immigration. The last forum was a general overview of all sides of day labor; this forum will specifically look at legislative and economic impact.
- 2) The Regional Subcommittee is still working with legislators to confirm their participation. In the event that a legislator cannot participate, the subcommittee will just have the bill read and allow the panelists to discuss its impact.

2. GLBT Issues Update

There was no report.

B. Subcommittee for Community Network and Outreach:

Commissioner and co-Chair of subcommittee, Linda Ritland, provided an update:

1. Brochure

Brochure is finished. This subcommittee has completed its goals and will not provide any additional updates.

C. Subcommittee on Strategic Oversight Update

Chair of subcommittee Gail Paredes-Ewen provided an update on the following topic:

1. Tempe Talks: A Diversity Dialogue Update.

- 1) The Dialogue program is progressing. There are two groups, each with 8-10 participants.
- 2) Week seven, March 8, 2006, is the final week of the program. This is the week that participants share feedback of the program and enjoy a potluck dinner.
- 3) The commission was invited to attend the final session and hear the feedback.

D. Subcommittee on Supplier Diversity Update

No report.

Agenda Item 9–Diversity Office Update

Staff Rosa Inchausti introduced Cindy Brown, the city's ADA Accessibility Specialist:

1. ADA Accessibility Specialist

- 1) Cindy Brown works out of the Diversity Office. Her focus is to ensure that all of city services are accessible as required by Title II of the ADA Law. Cindy has recently organized a city-wide Disability Task Force to take a look at how the city provides access to its services and to see if any adjustments are needed.
- 2) Cindy Brown has also worked in partnership with the Tempe Convention and Visitors Bureau to publish an "Access Tempe" brochure. This 48-page brochure lists all the accessible restaurants, hotels, parks, playgrounds and city facilities in Tempe.

2. Regional Unity Walk

- 1) The event was successful. About 100 Walkers from Tempe participated.

3. Who's Your Neighbor? Brown Bag

- 1) The next Who's Your Neighbor? Brown Bag will Monday, February 27, 2006 in the Council Chamber. The program begins at 12pm. Alonzo Jones will present the topic "Peering through the window" of an African-American family.

Agenda Item 10 –Current Events Announcements

- Who's Your Neighbor? Brown Bag February 27, 2006 at 12pm, in the Council Chambers
- Regional HRC Conversational Exchange February 28, 2006 at 6pm, in the Tempe Library Program Room
- National Forum for Black Public Administrators Monthly Luncheon at 11:30am, in the Tempe Library Program Room

The commission's next meeting will be March 14, 2006 at Tempe City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 A.M.

Prepared by: Andrea Groves

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager